

THE PROSPECTOR



Vol. 5, No. 17

Serving the Corps since 1943
Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow

September 8, 2016

MCLBB Wounded Warrior

Safety with "Anymouse"

HERCULES stretches its muscles



High Desert Vet Center

You're Invited to a

PANCAKE BRUNCH

PATRIOT DAY
WE'LL NEVER FORGET
9/11/2001

Please join us...
as we remember.

9/11
Observance

Friday, September 9th, 2016

10:00 AM ~ 1:00 PM

Flyer Courtesy High Desert Vet Center

A Patriot Day brunch is being held at the High Desert Vet Center in Victorville. It is open to military veterans and their families and friends who want to celebrate what it means to be an American. The brunch is free and is at 15095 Amargosa Rd., Victorville, Calif., 92394.

On the web

Links in this publication are interactive in the online version

Website: <http://www.mclbbarstow.marines.mil>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Marine-Corps-Logistics-Base-MCLB-Barstow/116845431679314>

http://www.twitter.com/#!/MCLB_Barstow

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow

Barstow, California

SOCIAL MEDIA
RESOURCES

- School L
- EFMP
- FOIA
- Sexual A
- Voting A

COMMAND

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On The Cover:

Front Cover: Keith Hayes

The M88A2 Armored Recovery Vehicle, aka Hercules, is being repaired and refurbished at Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command. The heavy lifting vehicle is capable of pulling an M1 Abrams Main Battle Tank out of almost any situation, whether caused by man or Mother Nature.

Back Cover:

The Barstow Rodeo and Stampede is being held aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow at the Lt. Col. Robert Lindsley stables. The event is being held Sept. 23 and 24 and will kick off with an appearance by the only remaining Mounted Color Guard in the Marine Corps.

THE PROSPECTOR

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California
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This magazine is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of THE PROSPECTOR are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the U.S. Marine Corps.

Photo by: Laurie Pearson

Christina Trisler, an assistant in the Human Resources Office, takes on Cpl. Natori Miller, supply clerk, in an arm wrestling challenge for additional donations during a Single Marine Program hotdog lunch fundraiser aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif. Sept. 1. Miller rose to the challenge with a victory over Trisler, a Navy veteran.

Got news? Call us! (760) 577-6430

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News Briefs

Leave Share Program

Individuals currently affected by medical emergencies and in need of leave donations:
Jacqueline Griffin

Stephen Martin

Yvette Costilla

Noah Glaza

Louis Trifos

Anyone desiring to donate annual leave under the Leave Share Program should contact the Human Resources Office at 577-6915.

Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance FEGLI Open Season Sept. 1-30

Eligible employees can elect any coverage FEGLI offers. Elections made during the Open Season will be effective October 1, 2017. Additional information about the FEGLI Open Season is available on the Office of Civilian Human Resources Portal at <http://portal.secnaf.mil/orgs/MRA/DOHNR/Benefits/Pages/FEGLI-Open-Season.aspx> or contact Benefits Line at 888-320-2917.

NMCRS is Seeking Volunteers

Navy Marine Corps Relief Society Barstow is seeking volunteers for the following: Chairman of Volunteers to manage volunteer operations; Director and Thrift Store Contributors/Volunteers. The COV position is highly regarded within the society and will contribute greatly towards job training and experience. If you have a passion for retail, the NMCRS Thrift Store is for you! We are seeking people with energy, passion and creativity to help sort, display and market various donations. NMCRS offers mileage and childcare reimbursement. Interested candidates, email retna.shaw@nmcrs.org.

Baby Boot Camp Desert Housing Community Center Weds. Sept. 21 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Join the New Parent Support Program for expecting moms and moms of children ages 0-18 months for fun and entertainment. Children are welcome! For more information call 577-6533.

Self Defense Class Weds. Sept. 14 6 - 8 p.m. Semper Fit Gym

All ages and skill levels are welcome to attend this free class. Even if you don't want to participate you can watch and learn how to be your own personal safety advocate. Registration is recommended at selfdefenseseptember2016.eventbrite.com. For more information call 760-577-6533 or visit www.mccsbarstow.com/prevention-education/.

Oasis Pool New Pool Hours Wed. - Sun.

The Oasis Pool and Water Park will be closed Monday and Tuesday for cleaning and maintenance; Wednesday through Friday LAP SWIM 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. and REC SWIM 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday REC SWIM 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. For more information call 577-6898 or visit www.mccsbarstow.com/pool/.

Screens and Strikes Family Movie Night Desert Lanes Bowling Center Fri. Sept. 9, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Bowling and a movie! What a bargain! We will be watching the movie "Zootopia." For more information call 577-6264 or visit www.mccsbarstow.com/bowling/.

Play Morning Community Center Friday Sept. 9 9 a.m.

Come join in the fun! All active duty service members and their dependents with children are invited to come enjoy singing, stories, crafts and play-time. Make new friends and learn something new each week. For more information contact New Parent Support at 577-6533.

DONCEAP Free Benefits Available 24/7

Employees today face challenges juggling work and family. It is not uncommon to become overwhelmed or stressed by relationships, school, health, finances, work, family or other issues which could impact your quality of life. The Department of Navy values its civilian employees and their families. The Department of Navy Civilian Employee Assistance Program provides a comprehensive support package to include work and life benefits such as childcare, finances, eldercare, identity theft and legal services, substance abuse treatment and more, at no charge. These services are confidential, within the limits of the law. Call or visit us online, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Help is available whenever you need it at 1-844-DONCEAP/1-844-366-2327, TY: 1-888-262-7848/International: 1-866-829-0270 or via the internet at www.DONCEAP.foh.hhs.gov. For more information contact HRO at 577-6915.

Green Tip

Choose the right water heater for your needs. While they may promise savings, tankless models are pricey to install-and on-demand water heaters may actually increase your electric bill.



Corner: Use Anymouse to report unsafe activity

Story and photo by: Keith Hayes
Public Affairs Specialist

It's a funny name for a serious subject, but the "Anymouse" boxes found at various locations around Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow can lead to a swift remedy for safety and health hazards.

Dave Ramsey is a health and safety specialist with the MCLB Barstow Safety Office, and one of his responsibilities is to check the various safety suggestion boxes found at both the Nebo side and the Yermo Annex of the base.

Marked as "Anymouse", the boxes are used by employees to report any safety problems they may find around base that have not been addressed by the usual chain of command.

Ramsey said the whimsical "Anymouse" name originated with the U.S. military. That statement is reinforced by a Marine Corps Order from 2007 which notes the Anymouse Safety Reporting Program has been around among Marine and Navy aviation personnel since the 1950s.

"The box was supposed to be marked 'anonymous,'" Ramsey said, "but it came out misspelled 'anymouse', and the name stuck."

Any employee who sees an unsafe or unhealthful activity anywhere aboard base can drop a Hazard Recognition Form in the "Anymouse" box, and the base safety office will take appropriate action, Ramsey said.

The Tazewell, Tenn., native urges employees to follow the proper chain of command by going to your supervisor first.

"If you're not satisfied with that, then you go to the 'Anymouse' boxes," Ramsey said.

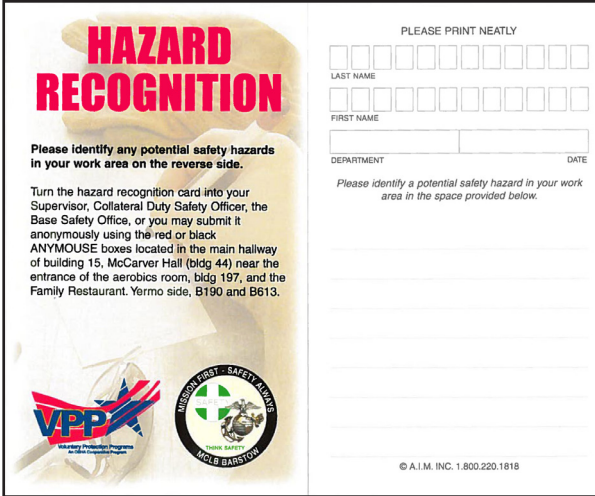
The "Anymouse" box is also as close as your computer.

"You can go directly into (Enterprise Safety Applications Management System), go in to 'my links' and you'll get a pop-up window, and go to 'report unsafe/unhealthful' and follow the prompts," he said.

The ESAMS gives an employee the option to file anonymously, Ramsey said.

"Then the base safety office determines if the issue warrants an investigation, and if it does they put a notice of 'unsafe, unhealthful action' on the bulletin board near where this hazard is located," he said. "That notice will have a number of the complaint on it, and you can use that number

on nd corrected through the 'Anymouse' complaint system was at (railhead operations)," Ramsey said.



The Hazard Recognition form located next to any "Anymouse" safety suggestions box aboard MCLB Barstow allow space for a reporting employee's name, but can be filled out anonymously. Any safety or health concerns indicated on the cards are evaluated by employees at the Base Safety Office and acted upon if warranted.



A patron of the Family Restaurant aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow passes by a safety suggestions "Anymouse" box next to the front door of the facility Sept. 1. Hazard Recognition forms next to the box allow any employee to anonymously report unhealthful or unsafe conditions to the base safety office.

to follow up on it in ESAMS to see what action has been taken."

Hazard recognition cards dropped in the "Anymouse" box do get results.

"The last hazard we took action

"The pit in the roundhouse where the locomotives go in for servicing has chains looped between poles around the pit. One of the employees thought the chains were too low, and someone could fall into the pit."

"An 'Anymouse' Hazard Recognition Form was dropped in a box. We took a look at it and agreed with the employee, and sent this observation on to management and management took care of it right away," he said.

"If you're unsure whether something should be reported to 'Anymouse', just do it and let the safety office technicians determine if

it should be investigated," he said. "Because sometimes the smallest things turn out to be something that could seriously hurt someone, and because you never know if the life you save could be your own."

The Hercules M88A2 has the strength of its demigod namesake

Story and photos by: Keith Hayes
Public Affairs Specialist

The M88A2 Armored Recovery Vehicle is a massive military towing vehicle used by the Marines to pull other massive vehicles out of sticky situations.

Bryan McKay, a native of Mount Vernon, Ill., is the heavy mobile equipment branch head artisan on the M88A2 project at Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command at the Yermo Annex of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow.

“The ’88 is also known as the Hercules, an acronym standing for Heavy Equipment Recovery Combat Utility Lift Evacuation System,” McKay explained.

The Hercules is built by the British company BAE Systems and has been in use in one form or another by the Army and Marine Corps since 1959, he said. McKay said the cost of a new Hercules is about \$3 million, “... but when you compare it to the cost of the Abrams it could save, it’s well worth it,” he said.

The Hercules is capable of towing 160,000 pounds, or 80 tons, and its boom and winch can lift 35 tons, or 70,000 pounds.

“The Hercules is really a massive hydraulic lift on tracks and is the only vehicle the military has that can, on its own, pull an M1 Abrams Main Battle Tank out of the mud or dirt even if the tank is buried up to its skirts,” McKay said.

“The Abrams tank itself is not designed to tow another tank because the track on them is totally different than on the ‘88s,” he said. “The Hercules treads are designed to dig into the surface to provide the pulling power needed to get a tank unstuck whereas a tank’s treads would just slip in

place, so the M88s perform a crucial role on the battlefield.” McKay said the Hercules is not a simple vehicle to work on.

“The biggest challenge to repairing the ’88 is identifying and routing the hoses and cables to make sure they get to the right place, because the Hercules is nothing more than a big hydraulic pump on tracks,” he said. “You have to make sure all of the hoses are not kinked or blocked, and that everything is clean ... very clean, because if you have any residual contamination in the system, it can wreak havoc on very expensive parts inside.”

Williams, Ariz., native Jim Stradling is a 34-year employee at PPB, who works on the engine powering the M88.

Stradling said the engine is huge, a V12 diesel with twin turbos capable of churning out 1,100 horsepower.

“The whole engine is a challenge because it’s so massive,” Stradling said. “We do all of the testing on the engine prior to it being taken to the Tracked



The boom of the Hercules is capable of lifting 35 tons, or 70,000 pounds, to free Marine Corps vehicles from almost any weather or combat-related morass. The cable used on the lift boom is sensor guided when rewinding to prevent any snags.



A huge reinforced cement block buried deep in the ground with chains attached sits ready to test the pulling ability of any Hercules vehicle being repaired or refurbished at PPB. The metal posts in the ground to the left of the block keep any cables from the ’88 that might break during testing from flailing around. A huge tensionometer attached to the cement block is used to check if the Hercules has reached its pulling ability of 80 tons, or 160,000 pounds.

Vehicle Test Area.”

David Jones, a PPB employee for ten years and a former Marine, is the lead artisan who maintains the cupola containing the Hercules command weapons station.

“The Hercules has one .50 caliber machine gun on a powered cupola on top of the ’88 controlled by a joystick from inside the vehicle,” Jones said. “The joystick and the powered cupola are an upgrade from the hand crank that was used to control the movement of the cupola and machine gun.”

“What we do is tear it down, send the various parts out to the shops, then rebuild it and test the cupola,” he said.

McKay said they then test the completed Hercules

for its pulling and lifting ability.

“That’s something special we do here that other repair facilities don’t do. We load test all of the ’88s once they’re completed, out at our lift and pull area, which is something I’ve never seen in my 29- year career,” he said.

Whatever their tasks are, all of the artisans working on the M88A2 Hercules at PPB echo the same sentiment.

“Doing a quality job for the Marines, that’s what I get out of it when it goes out to Fleet, and the Marines are happy with it,” McKay said. 🇺🇸



(Left) Kenneth Throenle and James Jacks, both heavy mobile equipment mechanics, work in the interior hull of a Hercules at Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command, to install hydraulic hoses that are the “arteries and veins” of the massive towing machine.



(Left) Lead Artisan David Jones oversees the maintenance of the powered cupola which operates the .50 caliber machine gun. Mounted atop the Hercules, the joystick-controlled cupola is capable of being operated from inside the vehicle without exposing personnel to enemy fire.



The blade at the bottom of the Hercules is used for pushing stuck vehicles or digging them out when necessary. Hercules line supervisor Bryan McKay said the blade also serves to stabilize the massive ’88 during the lifting or pulling process to prevent it from being overturned.

Staff Sergeant Beberniss: Wounded Warrior, husband, father

Story by: Laurie Pearson
Public Affairs Specialist

For Staff Sergeant Nicholas W. Beberniss, range safety officer aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., family is the most important blessing in this world, and his is about to grow by one more member.

Currently, he and his wife of 12 years, Leslie, have two children: Taylor (9) and Mason (4). Within a few short months, they will be adopting a 1-year-old baby, rounding out their family with another daughter. By all accounts, it is an exciting time for them, but the road has been wrought with intense ups and downs for this loving couple.

“Nick and I met through mutual friends at a country bar in early 2003,” Leslie explained. The unit, to which he was assigned, the 2d Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, stationed at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center at 29 Palms, was just getting back from an 11-month deployment to Japan. “A bunch of us got together to welcome them home at the bar. Nick was among those Marines. I had met him a few times before so I knew who he was. That’s when this Boot Marine (Nick) decided he wanted to make small talk.”

What he did not realize was that Leslie was an “Army brat” and fully capable of verbally sparring with him. A year later they were still dating, with long distance drives from Fort Irwin where she worked to 29 Palms where he was stationed. She received an urgent message telling her to “call Nick ASAP.” Upon returning his call, she was informed that his unit was being deployed to Iraq within two weeks.

“My heart was broken,” she said. “Prior to that he was in the field so I hadn’t seen him for two weeks; now I (wouldn’t) see him for seven months. As I got off the phone, I cried and as bad as it sounds I always remembered my dad telling his soldiers that if the Army wanted you to have a girlfriend or a wife, they would have issued you one. Automatically tears stopped and I knew right then and there that Nick Beberniss had my heart, and I was going to wait for him. The two weeks went by fast! I drove to 29 Palms every day straight from work at Fort Irwin and drove back home to Barstow at 1-2 a.m. February 14 came, and once again I drove to 29 Palms, but it wasn’t for a romantic dinner or flowers and chocolates. It was to see my Marine pack all his things in my truck and help him clean his room because they were leaving early the next day. I got there and started packing and cleaning his barracks room as he was

in and out, back and forth between the battalion and armory. After the fourth or fifth trip, he brought me a bag from the Exchange. In that bag was a box, and when I opened that box he dropped to one knee and asked me to marry him. Of course, I said YES!”

For the next five and a half months, they talked as often as they could manage while then Lance Cpl. Beberniss and his unit were deployed to Iraq. It was during one of these conversations that she mentioned a dream she had experienced.

“I’d had a horrible dream the night before that left me uneasy,” she explained. “As we chatted he told me he couldn’t talk long and that they were heading out on patrol. I told him to be careful because the dream was of an explosion and he was in it. He chuckled and said ‘you and your dreams! I’ll be fine’. We said I love you and hung up the phone. I wasn’t expecting the next call that I got.”

Later that day, July 21, 2004, while on patrol, Lance



Photo courtesy Beberniss family
Leslie Beberniss, the wife of Staff Sgt. Nicholas Beberniss, and their children, pose for a photo during a family event.



Photo courtesy Beberniss family
What remains of the rig in which then Lance Cpl. Nicholas Beberniss was blown up when it hit a double-stacked anti-tank explosive device on July 21, 2004, while deployed to Iraq. Beberniss was blown 60 feet away from the rig, suffering multiple injuries. His only words to his fiancée, Leslie, were that he had been hit before their phone went dead.

Beberniss continued on page 9

Cpl. Beberniss called his fiancé, but he “sounded horrible and was not making sense.”
“He told me he had been hit,” she said. “The phone went silent, and I fell to my knees crying.”

Their patrol vehicle hit a double-stacked anti-tank mine. The explosion ripped through the vehicle and the two men as they were exiting the rig. The blast threw him 60 meters. It was later reported that the mine was planted by the Mujahedeen.

For the next two and a half weeks, Leslie and “her Marine’s” family waited anxiously for information about their loved one. He was treated in Iraq first.

“While receiving medical treatment from a medical facility in Iraq, I had two cardiac arrests and lost a good portion of blood,” Staff Sgt. Beberniss explained.

He was then transported to Germany before being brought stateside to Navy Medical Center San Diego where he would be treated for the next eight and a half long years.

“He arrived at NMCS on my birthday,” she said. “It was the best birthday present ever, getting my Marine back.”

However, when he arrived, she was shocked by his condition.

“My 225 pound Marine was emaciated, battered and bruised,” Leslie said. “When reading his chart, I was in shock! The medical chart read that he weighed 130 pounds and was a Combat Casualty. It stated that he sustained a broken rib cage, punctured lung, broken back in four places, a fractured pelvis in two places, two broken legs, and severe head trauma. My heart sank.”

His right leg was eventually amputated below the knee.

Leslie exhausted her sick and annual leave to be by her Marine’s side as he lay in the hospital. She slept in her truck to save on driving the long distance, even receiving a ticket for doing so by military police at one point. Because they were not yet married, the nurses and doctors refused to share information with her, despite the couple’s requests and often shooed

her out of the room.
“I was done! I knew I loved Nick, and he loved me so I went down to the San Diego courthouse and got information on how to apply for a marriage license when the other party can’t be present,” she said. “I got the information, scheduled a notary to come to the hospital then called the Navy chaplain to marry Nick and me in the hospital ward. After the wedding,

I waited for that nurse to come in! When she finally came into the room and said ‘you know the drill, the doctors are making their rounds,’ I had the pleasure of introducing myself as Mrs. Beberniss and advised her that I would be staying and waiting for the doctors. The look on her face made my day, week, month and YEAR!”

Over the course of several years, now Staff Sgt. Beberniss has had multiple surgeries to include the amputation of his right leg below the knee, back surgeries, and more for his other injuries. To this day, however, he serves his country as one proud Marine.

“I always wanted to be a United States Marine because I believed in protecting and fighting for something bigger than myself,” Beberniss said. He continues to reenlist.

“The Commandant’s view is that if you can do a job in the

Marine Corps regardless of your limitations and/or disability then you can still stay on active duty,” he said.

Though people call him a hero, he humbly directs attention to his wife in particular and to other military spouses.

“Leslie is my hero, and I owe her my all,” Beberniss said. “For someone to have to go through the life that she has been through for the past 12 years and wanted to continue to push on ... that is a hero! I don’t think the spouses get enough credit,” he explained. “She is the reason why I am still here and continuing with my career when I could have easily given up and gotten out a long time ago.”

“We are all here for a reason,” Beberniss said. “For me, the reason is my family. They are the reason why I wake up and push through the pain.” 🇺🇸



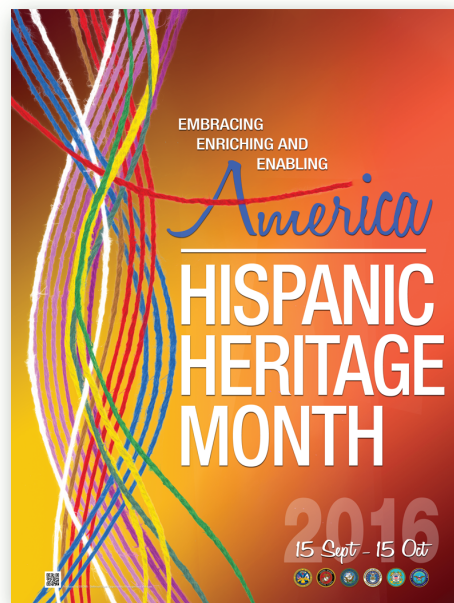
Photo courtesy Beberniss family
Staff Sgt. Nicholas Beberniss stands at attention with his 4-year-old son, Mason during a simulated promotion ceremony. Mason was “promoted” to Lance Corporal within the family and he proudly emulates his father.

CULTURAL
AWARENESS



OBSERVANCE

Hispanic Heritage Month EMBRACING, ENRICHING, AND ENABLING AMERICA



Facts

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from 15 Sept. - 15 Oct. by celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 31-day period. It was enacted into law on August 17th, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402.

September 15th is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16th and September 18th, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12th.

The term Hispanic or Latino, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, refers to Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race. On the 2010 Census form, people of Spanish/Hispanic/Latino origin could identify themselves as Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or "another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin."

In 2014, there were 55 million U.S. Hispanics, accounting for 17 percent of the American population.

The Hispanic population of the United States is projected to grow to 119 million in 2060. According to this projection, the Hispanic population will constitute 31 percent of the nation's population by that date.

Hispanics have had a profound and positive influence on our country through their strong commitment to family, faith, hard work, and service. They have enhanced and shaped our national character with centuries-old traditions that reflect the multiethnic and multicultural customs of their community.

For more facts go to: <https://www.deomi.org/SpecialObservance/index.cfm>



SCAN AND VIEW
MOMENTS IN HISTORY



www.DSPO.mil

SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH 2016

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PRESS 1



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RAM
RODEO SERIES

RODEO

BARSTOW RODEO STAMPEDE

Sept. 23 & 24 at 7:30 PM

Marine Corps Logistics Base Arena
I-15 & Ghost Town Rd.
I-40 Daggett off ramp
Barstow, CA

Tickets Available at:

MCLB ITT - 577-6541
Mojave Auto - Group 256-3502
Barstow Senior Center - 256-5023
Senior Thrift Shop - 256-0755
Boot Barn Victorville - 241-3361
McCoy's Feed - 253-7323
Adorable Pet Salon - 252-5003
Peggy Sue's Diner - 254-3370

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